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## Does Your Vocabulary Date You?

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# Does Your Vocabulary Date You?

by Eleanor White



**I**F YOU'RE a modern woman who prefers modern methods of home-making and a modern home, you'll want to keep your vocabulary in step. Perhaps, you would like to start the new year by ousting worn-out household terms and bringing your vocabulary up-to-date.

Here are a few right and wrongs to add to your list of resolutions for the coming year. Monday is no longer the time to wash the family's dirty clothes in the washing machine but rather the time to **launder** their **soiled** clothes in the **washer**. Then when dry the clothes are not mangled but **pressed** in the **ironer**.

In the **preparation** (not getting) of meals one has a great opportunity to reform his vocabulary. The word ice-box went out with the old-style wooden box long ago. **Refrigerator** is correct whether referring to the automatic (gas or oil), mechanical (motor type), or the ice type.

Eggs are **cooked** not boiled. Instead of plugging a waffle iron or coffee pot in the wall plug, it is more correct to speak of **connecting** the **waffle maker** and **coffee maker** to the **convenience outlet**. Tea towels have disappeared as far as the name is concerned. Now the homemakers' drawers or the young women's hope chests contain **dish towels**, **glass towels** and **hand towels**. **Dish cloth** has likewise taken the place of dish rag.

Most shopping lists can stand some good reforming. Would you be guilty of making any of the following mistakes?

- 1 package wax paper
- 1 lb. English walnuts

- pay light bill
- price living room drapes
- oil mop
- electric sweeper

The first item is really known as **waxed paper**. There might be a little dissatisfaction in the price of the second item if one was supplied with it exactly as written. However, most store keepers know the average homemaker is not interested in imported walnuts; so he makes a safe substitution. If she wants to specify where her walnuts come from a homemaker would more correctly ask for **Califor-**

**nia walnuts**, but just walnuts will bring the same results.

No one is justified in speaking of a light bill, unless he uses electricity for lights and lights only. This is not likely in this day of innumerable small electrical appliances. So the bill including lights and all appliances is the **electric bill**. **Drapes** is a verb. You might drape your curtains back, but you hang **draperies**. To avoid misnaming a mop that is not oil we speak of all mops as **dustless**. For the same reason **vacuum sweeper** is preferable to electric sweeper.

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that it is not the laundering by household methods that makes the difference in the wear and tear on fabrics as is so often stated.

The title of Miss Robert's graduate thesis is "Effect of Home Laundry Methods as Measured by the Degradation of Certain Fabrics." She received her Master of Science Degree in Household Equipment in June 1938.

## Glazed Fabrics

Also related to textile deterioration is the study of the results of washing and cleaning treatments on glazed and lacquered fabrics. A crisp slip cover of glazed chintz is pleasing to see and lacquered taffeta evening gowns have beauty and glamour, but if such materials are to be truly popular their care and upkeep must be better understood to prolong their span of usage.

From a study, "The Weaving and Cleaning Quality of Glazed and Lacquered Fabrics," Miss Dorothy Dunmore, who received a Master of Science degree in July, 1938, found that the surface glaze of all such fabrics with the exception of oiled silk was more resistant to dry cleaning than laundering. The finish on tarlatan and glazed chiffon was instantly soluble in water while taffeta and glazed chintz were least of all affected by cleaning. Consequently careful upkeep means frequent dustings with a dry cloth; a few dry cleanings might be withstood but the fabrics should never be washed.

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